

Paul Chaff B
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
LEE et al) Group Art Unit: Unknown
Serial No.: Unknown) Examiner: Unknown
Filed: Herewith) Atty Docket No.: JHU1550-1
Title: GROWTH DIFFERENTIATION FACTOR-12

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In advance of the first examination in this case, Applicants request amendment of the subject application, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 2, after "This is a", please insert --divisional of application Serial No. 08/765,662, filed on April 28, 1997, now pending, which is a--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete Claims 1-14 and 23-43.

Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

15. (Amended) A method of detecting a cell proliferative disorder comprising contacting [the] an antibody [of claim 12] that specifically binds to growth differentiation factor-12 (GDF-12) polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:12 with a specimen of a subject suspected of having a GDF-12 associated disorder and detecting binding of the antibody.